



Annual Report
UPON THE
Public Health & Sanitary Conditions
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT
OF
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
FOR THE YEAR
1943
BY
JONATHAN GROGONO, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1943.

Copies of this Report, as you are aware, must be sent to the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

		Total		M.	F.		
Live Births	{ Legitimate	106	51	55	}		
	{ Illegitimate	8	5	3			
		Total		M.	F.		
Still Births	Legitimate	0	0	0	}	Rate per 1,000 total births	Nil
	Illegitimate	0	0	0			
Deaths	... ..	53	21	32			

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

No. of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year old:

Legitimate, 0; Illegitimate, 0; Total, 0

Rate per 1000 births, Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Scarlet Fever (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

MEDICAL.

A part-time Medical Officer is employed, together with a Sanitary Inspector, and Veterinary Meat Inspector.

HOSPITALS.

All cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria sent away for isolation were treated at the Dunstable and District Isolation Hospital, the cases being removed by the Hospital's own ambulance in accordance with the County Scheme.

144 cases of notifiable Disease were reported during the year, 12 of the cases being sent to Dunstable in accordance with the above scheme, and one case occurring in the Services was dealt with by the authorities concerned. The remaining cases were isolated and nursed at home.

Patients with Tuberculosis can attend at the Clinic, which is conveniently held at Luton, and they can be admitted to the Mogerhanger Sanatorium.

Venereal cases can be treated at the Clinics of the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, and the Bedford County Hospital.

Arrangements are made by the County Council for the treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There is a St. John motor ambulance available, at a local garage, which is a great convenience and comfort in the removal of special or accident cases to the hospitals.

There are two permanently resident midwives in the town. A Health Visitor also visits the homes and gives instruction and advice.

Specimens and swabs are sent to the Clinical Research Association and Luton Borough Laboratory for microscopic and bacteriological examination.

The Council grants supplies of Antitoxin and Scarlet Fever Serum.

An Infant Welfare Centre is conducted in the town, a lady Health Visitor being present each week. She is assisted by the local nurse and several ladies in the town. A medical officer also attends.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The fortnightly collection of house refuse, together with the weekly collection of kitchen waste, which was put into operation in 1942, has been efficiently and regularly carried out without causing unnecessary inconvenience to householders.

The house refuse is still disposed of at the Council's controlled tip in Vandyke Road, which continues to give satisfaction.

Street gullies are periodically cleansed and flushed out with clean water.

DISINFECTION.

A stock of disinfectants is kept at the Council's Store Yard, West Street, and the public can have a full supply on application, of which they take advantage.

Premises are always disinfected after cases of infectious disease, and after deaths from tuberculosis.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one common lodging house in the district, which is kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

SCHOOLS.

The Elementary Schools of the town are as follows:—

Beaudesert: Senior Boys and Mixed Infants.

Bassett Road: Senior Girls.

Pulford: Junior Boys.

St. Andrew's: Junior Girls.

The sanitary accommodation is sufficient and in good order.

There is a Secondary School in the town for boys and girls, which is well provided with all sanitary arrangements.

CAMPING SITES.

There was only one licence issued under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which was for the use of one caravan.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one swimming bath in the town situated in the grounds of the Cedars School for the use of the pupils and members of the staff. The bath is of modern construction and is provided with a proper purification plant.

There is a large natural swimming pool on the outskirts of the town which is open to the public but is privately owned. The surface of the pool covers an area of approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres and the water always appears to be in good condition. This pool is the headquarters of the Leighton Buzzard Swimming Club.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One Council house found to be infested with bugs was successfully fumigated with "Cimex."

Houses are periodically visited by the Sanitary Inspector and tenants are encouraged to report any signs of infestation or re-infestation of their houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	77
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	163
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	24
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	70
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24
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2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers...	18
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:

A. Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	...	6
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners	Nil
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(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	1
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners	1
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(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	5
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C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
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D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	Nil

Total number of new houses erected in 1943 classified as follows:

By the Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil
By private enterprise	...	...	...	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

1. GENERAL.

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	268
Complaints received	...	...	...	42
Nuisances detected without complaint	...	...	...	32
Notices served, informal	...	...	...	58
Notices served, statutory	...	...	...	4
Nuisances abated:				
(a) by persons responsible	...	...	...	60
(b) by Council	...	...	...	1

2. HOUSE NUISANCES.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	30
Guttering and rainwater pipes cleaned out or repaired	...	...	...	18
Dirty houses cleansed and distempered	...	...	...	3
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired	...	...	...	3
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	Nil
New sinks provided	...	...	...	Nil
External wall repaired	...	...	...	2
Pavements repaired	...	...	...	Nil
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	38

3. DRAINS, WATER CLOSETS, ETC.

New drains laid	...	...	...	Nil
Drains cleared or repaired	...	...	...	22
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	11
Sanitary ashbins provided	...	...	...	50
Additional Water Closets provided	...	...	...	Nil
Privy Ashpits converted into Pail Closets	...	...	...	Nil
Pail Closets repaired	...	...	...	1

4. KNACKERS' YARDS.

Number on Register	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	4
Number of defects found...	...	...	...	Nil
Number remedied	...	...	...	Nil

5. BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	...	...	...	8
Number of inspections	...	...	...	18
Number of defects found...	...	...	...	1
Number remedied	...	...	...	1

6. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	25
Number of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	5
Number of inspections	...	...	...	47
Number of defects found...	...	...	...	15
Number remedied	...	...	...	14

7. VARIOUS.

Removal of animals improperly kept	...	...	...	Nil
Visits to infected houses	...	...	...	15
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	15
Verminous houses fumigated	...	...	...	1
Other items: One Common Lodging House inspections	...	...	...	12

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supply is obtained from the Urban District and the Luton and Wing Rural Districts. Pasteurised milk is also delivered into the District in bulk and in bottles. Inspections of the farms and dairies have been made.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ...	1338	364	4234	71
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole Carcases condemned	12	1	8	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	111	2	111	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	9.19 %	0.82 %	2.81 %	7.04 %
Tuberculosis only				
Whole Carcases condemned	56	2		2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	145		1	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	15.02 %	0.55 %	0.02 %	2.81 %

Inspections were made at various shops and premises and the following articles of food were examined and condemned :

607 lbs. Canned Meats
 192 tins of Milk
 120 „ Fruit
 119 „ Vegetables
 252 „ Fish
 83 „ Soup
 63 lbs. Bacon
 30 lbs. Cheese

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION
OF FOOD.

Specimens for the Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of milk and food are sent to the Clinical Research Association.

MEASURES RELATING TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SMALL POX.—No cases notified.

SCARLET FEVER.

Eleven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. All made good recoveries.

DIPHTHERIA.

Four cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. All made good recoveries.

ENTERIC FEVER.—No cases notified.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—No cases notified.

PNEUMONIA (ALL FORMS).

Fourteen cases of Pneumonia (all forms) were notified during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The two cases notified made complete recovery.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.—No cases notified.

ERYSIPELAS.

One case was notified which was isolated and nursed at home, and made a good recovery.

MEASLES AND CHICKEN POX.

82 cases of Measles and 18 of Chicken Pox were notified and nursed at home. All made good recoveries.

WHOOPING COUGH.

12 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Six cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children immunised during 1943 :

Under 5 years.	Over 5 and under 15.	Total.
120	57	177

Number of cases of Diphtheria notified in children under 15 years...	1
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Number of cases in which child is known to have completed course of immunisation not less than twelve weeks before onset of disease	...	1
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Your Obedient Servant,

JONATHAN GROGONO,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE II.
Notifiable Diseases during the year 1943.

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.												Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths	
	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65			65 upwards
Small Pox	11	..	..	4	..	2	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..
Scarlet Fever	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms)...	14	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	1	..	..	..
Opthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Measles ...	82	1	15	11	12	16	18	5	1	2	1	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox	18	..	1	..	5	3	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	12	1	1	4	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ...	144	4	17	20	18	22	31	11	1	13	2	3	2	12	..

TABLE III.

Cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1943.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 upwards	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	5	1	...	1	1	...	...	...

Causes of Death during Year 1943.

[illegible]

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1943.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages
under One Year of Age.

[illegible]

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home.	In hospital.				
Under one year.	2	2	...	2	...	...	...

